Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A locking ring for axially fixing a shaft part in a ring part, the shaft part having a peripheral groove and the ring part having an inner groove, in which the locking ring[[,]] ~~which has an opening in a circumferential direction~~[[,]] engages in a fixed state, the locking ring comprising

an opening in a circumferential direction, with first partial areas configured to engage in the inner groove upon resiliently pressing together the locking ring so that the locking ring is placeable in the inner groove of the ring part and pushing the locking ring into the inner groove and releasing and expanding the locking ring, and

second partial areas configured to project from the inner groove once the locking ring has been placed therein and to resiliently push outward in a section of the shaft part which has been pushed into an inner opening of the ring part so that the locking ring can slide on a periphery of the shaft part until the locking ring reaches the peripheral groove and the second partial areas resiliently snap into said peripheral groove,

the locking ring being configured as a polygon that includes side parts and corner areas, the first partial areas including the corner areas and opposed free end areas that adjoin the locking ring opening, and the second partial areas including middle areas of the side parts of the polygon, with the opening in the locking ring being disposed between the opposed free end areas.

2. (Previously presented) The locking ring pursuant to claim 1, wherein the first and the second partial areas are each distributed evenly over at least one of the periphery of the inner groove and the peripheral groove.

3. (Previously presented) The locking ring pursuant to claim 1, wherein the polygon is a triangle configured as a base part and two of the side parts connected to the base part, the first partial areas including two of the corner areas between the base part and the side parts and the free end areas of the side parts of the triangle, and the second partial areas including the middle areas of the base part and the side parts.

4. (Previously presented) The locking ring pursuant to claim 3, wherein the triangle is an equilateral triangle.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The locking ring pursuant to claim 1, wherein the corner areas are rounded in shape.

8. (Previously presented) The locking ring pursuant to claim 7, wherein the rounding of the corner areas is adjusted to a radius of a base of the inner groove.

9. (Previously presented) The locking ring pursuant to claim 1, wherein a cross section of the locking ring is circular, oval, rectangular, quadratic, or polygonal in shape.

10. (Currently amended) A locking ring for axially securing an inserted shaft having a peripheral groove to an annular ring having an inner groove, the locking ring comprising:

a plurality of first partial areas configured to engage the inner groove of the annular ring, the locking ring being resiliently deformable such that upon being resiliently pressed together, pushed into the inner groove, and released so as to expand, the locking ring is placeable in the inner groove; and

a plurality of second partial areas configured to project from the inner groove once the locking ring has been placed therein, to resiliently extend toward the inserted shaft such that the locking ring is slideable on a periphery of the shaft until the locking ring is located at the peripheral groove, and

to resiliently snap into the peripheral groove to secure the shaft to the annular ring,

the locking ring being configured as a polygon that includes side parts, corner areas, and opposed ends at an opening therein, the first partial areas including the corner areas and the opposed ends, and the second partial areas including middle areas of the side parts, with the opening being located at a periphery of the locking ring and being disposed between the opposed free ends of the locking ring.

11. (Previously presented) The locking ring according to claim 10, wherein the polygon is a triangle.

12. (New) The locking ring according to claim 1, wherein the opening between the opposed free end areas is located at a periphery of the locking ring.

13. (New) An assembly for axially securing an inserted shaft having a peripheral groove, the assembly comprising:

an annular ring having an inner groove therein; and

a locking ring having

(i) a plurality of first partial areas configured to engage the inner groove of the annular ring, the locking ring being resiliently deformable such that upon being resiliently pressed together, pushed into the inner groove, and released so

as to expand, the locking ring is placeable in the inner groove, and

(ii) a plurality of second partial areas configured to project from the inner groove once the locking ring has been placed therein, to resiliently extend toward the inserted shaft such that the locking ring is slideable on a periphery of the shaft until the locking ring is located at the peripheral groove, and to resiliently snap into the peripheral groove to secure the shaft to the annular ring,

the locking ring being configured as a polygon that includes side parts, corner areas, and opposed ends at an opening therein, the first partial areas including the corner areas and the opposed ends, and the second partial areas including middle areas of the side parts.

14. (New) The assembly according to claim 13, wherein the corner areas of the locking ring are rounded in shape, and a cross section of the locking ring is circular, oval, or polygonal in shape.